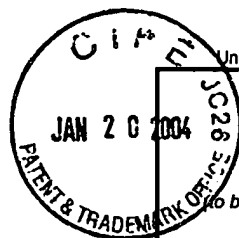


3731/1

PTO/SB/21 (05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2004. OMB 0651-00321
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>		Application Number	09/815,393
		Filing Date	March 22, 2001
		First Named Inventor	David N. Krag
		Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	Jessica R. Baxter
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	20	Attorney Docket Number	341148001US1

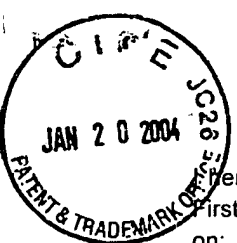
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Check No. 4792 (\$210) Return Receipt Postcard
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">Remarks</div> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;"> RECEIVED JAN 28 2004 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700 </div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Edward S. Hotchkiss, Reg. No. 33,904
Signature	
Date	January 13, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.			
Typed or printed name	Edward S. Hotchkiss		
Signature		Date	January 13, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



#1210
2-4-05
Attorney Docket No. 34114-8001US1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: 13 January 2004

By:


Edward S. Hotchkiss

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: DAVID N. KRAG *ET AL.*

APPLICATION No.: 09/815,393

FILED: 22 MARCH 2001

FOR: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
BRACKETING AND REMOVING TISSUE**

EXAMINER: JESSICA R. BAXTER

ART UNIT: 3731

CONF. NO: 5450

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated 13 August 2003 in the above-identified application. Please amend the claims in the application as follows.

RECEIVED
JAN 28 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700